



# **COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES**

(Recognised by the Dental Council of India, New Delhi)
(Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Bengaluru)



#### Ref.No.CODS/2525/2013-14

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# Infection Control Policy and Protocols followed in the clinics

The purpose of this policy is to establish infection control measures and protocols to ensure the health and safety of patients, students, and staff at the College of Dental Sciences clinics. These measures will help prevent the transmission of infectious diseases and promote a clean and sterile environment for dental procedures.

Sterilization Processes: (For both Central Sterile Supply & Depostmental Sterile)

- 1.1. We have established standardized protocols for handling, packaging, and labeling of sterile supplies, minimizing the risk of contamination during storage and transportation.
- 1.2.Central/departmental sterile supplies are responsible for overseeing the sterilization process and track expiration dates and conduct regular quality checks to guarantee the integrity of sterile items

## **Disinfection and Fumigation:**

- 2.1. All clinical areas, dental instruments, equipment, and surfaces must be regularly disinfected using appropriate disinfectants recommended by infection control guidelines.
- 2.2. A fumigation schedule must be maintained to disinfect all clinical areas periodically, following the recommended protocols and considering the safety of personnel.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hygiene:

- 3.1. All students, faculty, and staff members must wear appropriate PPE during patient care & it must be changed between patients or when contaminated or damaged.
- 3.2. PPE includes: Disposable gloves, Protective eyewear, Masks (surgical masks or N95 respirators, as appropriate), Protective clothing (gowns or lab coats) and any other essentials.
- 3.3. Proper hand hygiene is essential in preventing the spread of infection. All individuals must wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after each patient contact. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap and water are not readily available.

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## Waste Management:

- 4.1. All waste generated in the clinics, including sharps, contaminated materials, and general waste, must be disposed of in designated containers.
- 4.2. Waste disposal must adhere to local regulations and guidelines, ensuring safe and proper segregation, storage, transportation, and disposal methods.

# Register Maintenance:

- 5.1. A register for infection control must be maintained, including:
  - Documentation of sterilization cycles, disinfection of all surfaces and maintenance records for dental instruments and equipment.
  - Incident reports related to needle stick injuries or infection control breaches, if any.

#### Immunization:

- 6.1. All students and staff members must provide evidence of up-to-date immunization against communicable diseases as per the recommended vaccination schedule.
- 6.2. Immunization records must be maintained and readily accessible for verification purposes.

### **Biomedical Waste Disposal:**

7.1. All staff and students must receive training on proper waste management and disposal procedures, including the segregation of different types of waste.

7.2. Regular inspections and audits should be conducted to ensure compliance with waste disposal protocols.

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# **Communication and Training:**

- 8.1. Regular training programs must be conducted to educate staff and students about infection control protocols, PPE usage, hand hygiene, and waste management.
- 8.2. Effective communication channels should be established to disseminate infection control updates, guidelines, and any changes in protocols.

# **Patient Safety Manual**

The College of Dental Sciences is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our patients. As part of our infection control program, we have developed a comprehensive Patient Safety Manual which is available in our college website. This manual serves as a resource for patients and outlines the measures we take to maintain a safe clinical environment.

## **Compliance and Monitoring:**

- 10.1. The College of Dental Sciences has established an Infection Control Committee responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the infection control policy and protocols.
- 10.2. Regular audits and assessments to be conducted to evaluate adherence to infection control measures.
- 10.3. Non-compliance with infection control protocols should be addressed through appropriate corrective actions and follow-up measures.

This policy and associated protocols should be reviewed periodically or as deemed necessary, to ensure they align with current infection control guidelines and best practices. Any updates or modifications to the policy should be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

By implementing this infection control policy and adhering to the established protocols, the College of Dental Sciences clinics will maintain a safe and hygienic environment for patients, students, staff and reducing the risk of infections.

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